A BRIEF TOUR OF

The Rev'd Sheldon Moody Smith, *Rector*
The Rev'd Larry Alan Snyder, *Curate*
The Rev'd Harry Sinclair Mills, *Assistant to the Rector*

SERVICES:

8:00 a.m.	Holy Communion
9:15 a.m.	Family Service and Church School
11:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer and Sermon (First and Third Sundays Holy Communion)

SUMMER SCHEDULE SERVICES:

8:00 a.m.	Holy Communion
10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer and Sermon (First and Third Sundays Holy Communion)

The Rev'd W. Herbert Burk, D.D., Founder The Rev'd John Robbins Hart, Ph.D., Rector

WASHINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL

These numbers correspond with highlighted items in the accompanying text.

MESSAGE

Visiting Valley Forge today, it is difficult to imagine the experience undergone by the men of the Continental Army. The passage of time always makes hardships remote, and most people see Valley Forge in the warm months, when it is one of the most beautiful places in the country.

Yet the reason for Valley Forge involves suffering; suffering from physical discomforts and danger, but also the suffering of doubt. That the weary and beaten men who entered Valley Forge in December of 1777 could have marched out six months later as a confident and well-drilled army should be a source of wonder for every succeeding generation.

The officers and men of the Continental Army were sustained by the example of George Washington. His assured greatness among the leaders of history lies not only in his own ability as a soldier and bravery as a man, but in that unique quality which enabled him to inspire the same strength in the army he led.

The Washington Memorial Chapel is a perpetual reminder of the source of that strength. We too easily forget that, throughout his life, Washington's devotions were the basis of his life. If he was great as a man, it was because he was great as a Christian man. If he had the strength to lead his nation to freedom, it was because he knew himself to stand as a free man before the Throne of God.

It is my hope, which I share with all who work here at the Chapel, that you will visit us many times, and that each time will be a source of fresh inspiration to you. For the Washington Memorial Chapel is not merely a monument to the past, it is a sign for the present and the future: that greatness and freedom, of men and of nations, must begin with the gifts which God bestows upon men.

I commend to you this booklet compiled by Mr. Frank Law (parishioner, carillonneur and parish historian) and hope that it will assist you to better understand the beauty and meaning of Washington Memorial Chapel.

Sheldon Moody Smith

THE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL

The Washington Memorial Chapel is an active Episcopal Parish in the Diocese of Pennsylvania and the Episcopal Church in the United States of America. There are over 700 communicants who make the Chapel their spiritual home, and three morning services are held every Sunday: 8:00 a.m. is Holy Eucharist, 9:15 a.m. is a family service and 11:00 a.m. is the regular service (with the Holy Eucharist alternating between the latter two services.) Evensong is sung on Sunday afternoons several times in the year, and there are regularly scheduled celebrations of the Holy Eucharist through the week. You, the public, are invited and welcomed to attend any of our services of worship of Almighty God.

The Chapel is a memorial to George Washington and contains many memorials to him. The inspiration for the Chapel resulted from a sermon preached by the Founder and First Rector, the Rev. Dr. W. Herbert Burk, then Rector of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Norristown, Pennsylvania. The cornerstone of the Chapel was laid in June, 1903; and a small frame Chapel preceded the present structure and was known as the Theodore Roosevelt Chapel after a visit and address by him in 1904.

The Chapel was designed by Milton B. Medary, Jr., who was selected by the University of Pennsylvania in a competition for that purpose. The efforts to complete the Chapel took many years, with the contract for completion having been awarded on April 15, 1915.

Though by no means a complete listing, the following presents highlights of interest and importance. Memorials which are numbered can be located on the accompany-floorplan of the Chapel.

In the niche to the right front of the Chapel is a most unusual statue of George Washington (1) made after his death, and called "Valley Forge." It shows him bearing the burdens of the war - anxiety in his face, determination in the grip of the sword, confidence and hope in the pose of the whole figure. This is the work of Franklin Simmons, sculptor from Maine, and was executed in Rome, Italy.

The Altar (2), a gift of Mr. Rodman Wanamaker, is a solid block of Indiana limestone weighing over ten tons.

The Choir Stalls (3), the work of Edward Maene of Belgium, are hand-carved oak, standing ninteen and one-half feet high. Each stall commemorates a brigade, as witnessed by the different uniforms displayed on the soldiers.

The Prayer Desk (4) to the right front and in the choir behind the lectern was also carved by Mr. Maene and honors Mrs. Anna Holstein who saved Washington's Headquarters from destruction.

The Lectern (5) to the right front of the Chapel is the only memorial at Valley Forge to a British soldier. It honors General Braddock who was the young Washington's Commander-in-Chief in the Fench and Indian War.

The Litany Desk (6) in the center of the main aisle at the crossing commemorates Washington's prayers for the Nation. June 1, 1774, was a day of prayer for peace between England and the Colonies. Washington wrote in his diary, "June 1st, went to Church and fasted all day." The inscription is a copy of Washington's own handwriting.

The Altar Cross (7), of unusual grace and beauty and of unique form, was given by a member of the Lincoln family as a memorial to Abraham Lincoln. The Cross of hand-carved wood is gilded and polychromed, and also is adorned with small statues carved of ivory representing the four Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The Flags (8) to the left of the Altar are those of the Army and Navy of the Revolutionary period; and the Flags (9) to the right of the Altar are those of France and the Royal House of Bourbon. The French Alliance was first celebrated by Wasington and the Continental Army at Valley Forge on May 6, 1778.

The Windows of the Chapel, the work of Nicola D'Ascenzo of Philadelphia, have red predominating in one, blue in the next. Dr. Burk suggested this arrangement in order, that with the light walls between, we would have our national colors throughout the Chapel.

The window over the Altar is the Martha Washington Window (10), a gift of the Colonial Dames of Pennsylvania. The window represents service through sacrifice and is based upon our Lord's words, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." The central opening depicts Religion, and, from top to bottom, its five panels represents: the three Marys bearing the message of the Resurrection, the Crucifixion, the Baptism of our Lord, the Nativity, the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. In the bottom panel of the far right opening of the window is a picture of our Lord holding in His arms a model of this Chapel which was inspired through faith in Him.

Over the door is the George Washington Window (11) with thirty-six scenes in the life of Washington: beginning in the upper left hand medallion with his baptism, and ending in the lowest right hand corner with him reading his Bible at the close of the day at Mount Vernon. Washington in prayer at Valley Forge is seen in the central opening over the door, the second on the left. This window was given by the Pennsylvania State Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, as a memorial to Washington.

There are thirteen windows in all.

The ceiling is called the Roof of the Republic and bears the hand carved State Seals of all the States, placed in order in which they came into the Union, starting with Delaware, overhead to the left as one enters the Chapel. (Keys to these seals are found in the bronze plaques embedded in the floor of the central aisle.) The ceiling is supported by hand-carved angels to represent God's providence, and hand-carved pelicans in the Choir to represent man's sacrifice. Dr. Burk always said that it was only through God's providence and man's sacrifice that the Republic can exist.

Over the Choir Stalls are the reproductions of flags of the Revolutionary period. Included in this collection is the Commander-in-Chief's Standard (six-pointed white stars on a field of dark blue) and the Washington Family Pennant (three five-pointed red stars and two red bars on a field of white). The Parish shield is derived from the Washington family shield.

The pews are called the Pews of the Patriots (12), as each pew commemorates a patriot or group of patriots. The first pew to the left front is known as the Presidents' Pew in memory of Washington and Monroe who were both at Valley Forge and were later elected presidents of the new nation. It also commemorates President Theodore Roosevelt who was the only president to visit Chapel grounds while in office, until President Warren Harding visited on June 5, 1921. As president he occupied the pew and then went out and preached to over fifteen thousand people in the "Woodland Cathedral," the grounds to the west of the Chapel adjacent to the Cloister of the Colonies.

The large stone tablet over the Door of the Allies (13) is the Declaration of Independence Tablet, a tribute to the signers of the Declaration; and the tablet on the left side, over the Inauguration Door (14), is known as The Framers of the Constitution Tablet. These were designed and carved by Miss Martha M. Hovenden.

To the west of the Chapel is the Cloister of the Colonies (15), with one bay for each of the Colonies. In the garth enclosed by the Cloister is the beautiful statue by Bela Pratt, Sacrifice and Devotion, given in honor of the Mothers of the Nation.

To the east of the Chapel is the Porch of the Allies (16), with its beautiful bays in honor of Von Steuben, DeKalb, Lafayette, Rochambeau and Pulaski.

The Washington Memorial National Carillon (17), the inspiration of the founder of the Chapel, Dr. Burk, was developed from the Star Spangled Banner National Peace Chime of fourteen bells - one for each of the Colonies and a bell known as the National Birthday Bell. The Peace Chime was hung in a temporary tower to the west of

the Chapel, adjacent to the Cloister. Additional bells were added over a long period of time, and named for the states of the Union according to their population in the late 1920's. Thirty-seven bells were eventually hung in the temporary tower, but only thirty-four of these were playable. This tower was demolished in 1953. The new Bell Tower was made possible through the efforts of the second Rector, the Rev. Dr. John Robbins Hart, who enlisted the help of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution who raised the money for the tower. The present tower was dedicated in 1953, and now contains fifty-eight cast bells - bells for all of the States, and territories, the size of which was determined by their populations in the 1920's, a bell for Washington, D.C., bells for Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, Midway and Wake Islands, and the National Birthday Bell. These bells, representing states and territories, are played from a clavier high in the tower by a carillonneur using both clenched fist and the feet. The six largest bells hang below the clavier and fifty-two bells hang above the clavier, the action of which is entirely mechanical with no electrical assist.

Behind the Chapel is the Chapel Cabin Shop, operated by and for the Chapel. Proceeds from the sales of handcrafted items, home baked goods and souvenirs go to the support and operation of the Chapel. This Cabin, constructed in 1915, was originally used for Sunday School on Sundays, and as a Tea Room the rest of the week.

The Chapel receives no State or Federal aid in any way, and any contribution large or small is greatly appreciated, and aids in the continuance of the Washington Memorial Chapel, the National Shrine at Valley Forge.

Frank Péchin Law